

Fashion Decrees 'Return of the High Shoulder Puff'



Marie Antoinette Gown of Taffeta.



Sage Green Cloth Coat.



Theater Gown of Dove-Colored Berege.

Every Indication That It
Will Be Popular
This Winter.

Gowns of Ten Years Ago
May Be Worn With-
out Alteration.

Wearing of Silks Is Now
in Vogue to Marked
Degree.

By AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

One of Mrs. Langtry's creditors whispers that the Lily went broke buying new gowns. "But she'll pay for them to the last dollar—and buy more," says he. It's a woman's tendency to pay more for things to the last dollar and buy more, which makes the dealers so ready to cater to her and the manufacturers so ready to weave fine things for her. And it is to woman's appreciation of the beautiful that the wonderful fabrics of the season are due.

It is announced that three of the Jersey Lily's new gowns are quite distinctive. They have the full high shoulder puff; they are in the new shades of biscuit, dull red and burnt corn color, and what is quite noticeable, all are made of silk. They are of taffeta, moiré, and brocade. So, by this mark one can trace the coming fashions. Look around and you will see that the new gowns are made of silk, and that all have the high shoulder puff.

Then in Vogue.

Surely there is no one who has forgotten this high shoulder which is new yet old. It was the constant vogue from 1890 to 1900. For nearly ten years it reigned more or less and was at its height in '95. Surely no fashion ever had so long a stay and no fashion was ever one-half as popular.

All women, young and old, great and small, wore the big shoulder and those who walked in the front rank of fashion wore it smartly crinolined.

It was claimed for the big shoulder puff that it made women very wide in the shoulder, and that it made the waist seem very small by comparison. Anyway, it continued in vogue for ten years and died hard.

Puff Shoulder Here.

Then it disappeared and the history of the saggy, baggy sleeve of the past five years is well known. And now, lo and behold, the full puff shoulder is back and the new Paris models look very much like those of ten years ago.

This sleeve, which is called a mutton leg because it looks so very much like a leg of mutton, with the big part of the leg at the shoulder, is worn with cloth gowns and with silk dresses. It is beginning to come in with the new reception gowns and one sees it creeping into the coat sleeves.

As yet one cannot afford to have all one's fall gowns made in this way, for fear it may not be permanent, but it would be a very good thing to have one or two fashioned with the high shoulder, for it is very likely that by spring there will be no other sleeves seen or used.

Tips for Dressmakers.

Prudent women are making the new fall gowns out of material with a yard or two to spare. This yard or two is laid away carefully so as not to fade the goods; and, in time, it may come in handy for new sleeves or for big sleeve puffs put on at the shoulder.

The French puff shows the big full sleeve set into the armhole in big side platings. The sleeve is now pulled out full so as to set out as though it were crinolined. It is very tight below the puff and quite hugs the arm all the way to the wrist.

While engrossed with the full sleeve Dame Fashion has allowed herself to

Brown Leather and Silver to Match a Brown and Gray Bag.

Tapestry Bag With a Brilliant Bouquet Upon the Front.

drift into the silk world, and so far has she ventured that it is doubtful if she herself is aware how completely she is committed to the wearing of silk. She selects her dinner gown in the rich hues of medium colors, claret for example, and leaf green, and café au lait. And for receptions and nice out-of-door dresses she chooses the stately black silks, selecting moiré, gros-grain, Ottoman weave, corded and brocade and figured silks, while for other wear she chooses taffetas of various colors and kinds.

Wonders of Taffeta.

And it is astonishing what one can do with taffeta. A woman, seeing a bargain in cloud-colored taffeta of the shade we used to call steel, purchased enough of it for a complete suit. It was of the soft grade of taffeta, the kind which, though lustrous, does not wrinkle and can be crushed in the hands and smoothed out again without injury. It does not stiffen when wet, and it wears, if not like iron, certainly almost as well as poplin, and this is no exaggeration. Those who doubt can try a good grade soft taffeta.

Well, this woman, after she had purchased her soft cloud-colored taffeta, went to work upon it cutting out the sweep skirt with home scissors. She let it just swing clear from the floor, the same length all the year around. Then she trimmed it with three knife-plaited ruffles set far apart and looking as quaint as you please. She fitted the hips snugly and strapped the seams with strappings.

Eton Shape Waist.

The waist, since the gown is for fall, is cut open in Eton shape looking a little like a Directoire coat. There are wide, smart turnback revers, and there is a deep collar of taffeta trimmed with a ruffle of the same. The sleeves are big mutton leg with the wide part of the leg at the shoulder.

But the prettiest part of all is the vest or shirt waist which goes with it. It is made of corn cream colored china silk, and the whole front is ruffled with point de Flanders lace. It looks too quaintly sweet for anything, with its wide girde of cream color. There is another girde of black lace and there is a ruffled vest of black lace for the cooler days.

Coming Silk Gown.

Silk has a certain warmth of its own. Unlined, it can be worn over something warmer. Lined it is as good as cloth for a cold day. Anyway, Dame Fashion, with her usual cleverness, is preparing herself to wear silk, and, whether over a knitted vest or over a wadded lining, it is very certain that she will be seen a great many times during this coming winter in a dress of brocade rivaling the brocades which were so fashionable in the long ago.

And this brings one to the Directoire coats, which are to be worn universally this winter by all women who can afford them. These coats, with their open fronts, wide girdles, long tails, smart

gauntlets, and big, handsome buttons, will be the coats of the season.

For a Directoire coat the woman who dresses smartly will want at least four handsome buttons the size of a silver quarter. Those who go in for extremes can buy much larger buttons. A fashionable London woman has a Directoire coat of navy blue satin trimmed with four big steel buttons on the front as big as half dollars. There are four more at the back, which has a postillon effect. There is also a girde which is caught in front with a big clasp. For winter wear this coat can be snugly padded and lined with Oriental silk. It is very smart to trim the hat with a twist of the same silk.

Winter-Weight Silks.

It is silk, everything is silk, and it can be set down as a sure thing that the silk gown is here for a long stay. The shops are filled with silks of various kinds, and, as the summer silks are put away, there come winter weights that are just the thing for autumn and for the colder days later on.

Even the foulards and the silks of China and India are not banished entirely, for they make such fine fabrics for the winter shirt waists. China silk in all tints is made up with lace, with fagoting, with open hemstitching, and with lattice work. And India silk of fine texture is made the basis for flouncings of lace around the yoke, for vests of lace and for some of the most marvelous bodice trimmings that could be pictured.

To buy an India silk shirt waist no longer means something simple and inexpensive. On the contrary, several of these waists retailed a few days ago in a New York store for \$15 each. And an order was taken for one which was to cost \$200. The owner is the wife of a steel king, and the waist, which is in pale green India silk, is trimmed with cushion lace, upon whose bobbins there had been strung fish skin pearls, tiny turquoise and mock gems.

All of the foulards are impressed into winter use, and the light summer silks of the shops have been spirited away by cunning modistes to reappear later as fashionable shirt waists. From this sign the home dressmaker might take a hint, and should she desire to cut up an old summer silk into new winter shirt waists she can do so with the full approval of the best modistes in town.

A Season of Ruffles.

"It is the vogue of ruffles," said an ultra fashionable dressmaker the other day. "And all the nice gowns are ruffled. Some of them are trimmed with three wide ruffles around the bottom, each ruffle hemstitched. Others are trimmed with plain ruffles. It matters very little whether the ruffle be lace trimmed, trimmed with Oriental stuff, scalloped, or pinked or severely plain, so long as it is a ruffle!"

And this same opinion was voiced some time ago by the dressmakers' convention in New York and echoed by the dressmakers' representatives at St.

Louis. Ruffles will be the vogue, and never in all the history of dress were they as fashionable.

A Paris dressmaker who made the trip across the sea to go to the exposition said this to a representative of this newspaper the other day: "All Paris gowns will be trimmed with ruffles. That gown there," pointing to a handsome dress on exhibit, "affords a fine illustration of the ruffled mode."

Wide Ruffle Sleeves.

"The skirt is trimmed with three knife-plaited ruffles six inches apart. The waist, which is an Eton, is ruffled over the shoulders and down the front. The sleeves are finished with a wide ruffle at the wrist, lined with white, and caught back upon the arm; and there is a neck ruffle lined with white, here and there to show the lining. This gown, indeed, illustrates well the coming vogue for ruffles."

"From a close observation of the gowns at St. Louis," said this authority, "I should say that your American fashions are a little ahead of our Paris styles. By that I mean that where we are inclined to feel our way cautiously you step in boldly. We are just coming to a return to the shoulder puff, while you are using it right along."

"I have noticed," concluded she, "that all of your very best frocks are puffed out at the shoulder, very much as they were ten years ago. As for us, we have made only three models on this style, but they are being extensively copied in Vienna, London, and St. Petersburg, the cities that, with Paris and New York, lead the world in styles."

It is impossible to pass the seasons by in the matter of serge, that most useful material and the least expensive, considering its wearing qualities.

Suits for Boys and Girls.

Little boys' Russian suits, with full knickerbockers and long-belted coats of serge are among the attractive novelties in the shops. The serge is almost smooth upon the surface, is of fall weight and is made very natty by the enamel buttons and belt to match.

In the granite colors there are some very nice things for boys of older growth. There is a Scottish granite suiting which looks like a coarse weave of canvas. It is slightly rough upon the surface, but has wearing qualities that cannot be duplicated anywhere. It comes in nub effect with flecks of brown and red upon the surface, and it can be worn with colored shirts and colored ties.

They are trying to introduce the brown linen collar in boys' apparel, and with some success. These collars are not generally placed on sale yet. But, if any woman desires to fit her boy

out in this manner, she can take a white linen collar, wide and well fitting, and after washing the starch out of it, she can then cut a pattern from it. And in this manner she can obtain the pattern for a collar to be made out of light blue linen, or linen of a golden brown or tan or red. These collars are natty and are much worn by English boys and girls.

A Serviceable Overcoat.

The best overcoat for a small boy is the double-breasted variety, made out of cloth of dull gray, or deep blue, or steel color. It should be only medium weight, for the small boy does not need too long. There is a very handsome English model, double-breasted and coming just below the knees.

Handsome metal buttons are used upon boys' coats as being more durable than cloth buttons, and this is true even in the case of the dressy black suit and the very nice dark blue suit.

A certain tailor who makes clothing for the little boys of the 400, designates the following as a suitable wardrobe for a small boy:

One navy blue serge sack suit with two pairs of trousers, one pair cut on the bloomer order bloused at the knee, and the other pair snug fitting knickerbockers. With this should go a serge vest for wear on cooler days.

One black broadcloth suit with coat cut on the Tuxedo style, and knickers. Several nice white shirts should be a part of this suit. And there should be wide white embroidered collars and a dozen broad neckties in white and black, navy blue and brown.

The boy should have a pepper and salt suit with bloomers and blouse. And with this he will wear a chemise. This style of dress is worn for school by large boys who find it comfortable.

Two Suits Needed.

The boy will need two coarse suits for every day wear and these should be cut double breasted and buttoned with bone buttons. A small brown suit with vest coat and knickerbockers will complete a very nice wardrobe.

The small boy's shoes are of much importance. They come with extension soles and wide toes. These are hardly polite shoes for the dining room, and the small boy must put on slippers when he comes in the house to his meals. It is therefore a good thing to provide him with a pair of tan shoes of medium weight for fall wear and a pair of buttoned leather shoes, and still another pair of shoes of the glossy tip variety for wear afternoons. The boy himself will see that these shoes do not accumulate too rapidly in his wardrobe.

All of the dealers are making a specialty of boys' clothing this year, and the little girl who has hitherto usurped everything feels quite neglected by comparison. For the little girl there is a long fur coat, cut Russian style, with a white enamel belt.

Those who are on the lookout for new

trimmings should learn to make "cretes." To make a crete take a frill of silk and scallop the edges. Now shir it a little way from the edge, until the frill is moderately full, and set it upon the skirt.

This will make the edges stand out like narrow ruffles, each side of a full puff. And there are different ways of making cretes. They take silk and cut it in strips and double it. Both edges are now pinked or frilled, frayed, or scalloped. The frill is now shirred over a narrow cord and the cord is pulled until the frill is just full enough. It is sewed on the skirt, or the waist, upside down, so that the edges will stand out in the smartest imaginable fashion.

There are such varieties of small trimmings this year. One who does not follow the styles can have no idea of the number and the diversity of tiny decorations that come for gown trimmings. One sees them upon hotel piazzas where the daintiest possible accessories of dress are being made.

Neat Button Mold.

One very pretty style of trimming calls for a button mold covered with silk. A mold about the size of a silver quarter is covered with gray taffeta and over the top of it there are drawn long threads, criss-crossing in pretty style. This button mold is now set in the middle of a shirred rosette, the edges of which are frilled out. This makes a very pretty decoration for the trimming of a gown.

They take button molds and cover them with silvered gauze or with tiny bits of cloth of silver. These make beautiful trimmings for dinner gowns. They can be worn also upon the Directoire coats. They are used to give the double-breasted effect and two rows of buttons are also at the back of the coat. The same is done with gold buttons and with buttons that are covered with jetted cloth. Nor does ingenuity stop here.

One very enterprising dressmaker is taking round glass buttons and covering them with cloth thickly studded with tiny jets. Thus she makes a ball which looks precisely like a jet ball. And she takes the common flat pearl buttons of large size, covers them with silk, and sews them on with blue sewing silk, going up and down through the buttons, as though it had not been covered with silk.

"I wish to impress up my patrons," said a Fifth Avenue dressmaker, "the value of the novelty lace. A great deal can be done with a lace that costs a comparatively small price. Very often such a lace is really better than a more expensive lace."

Use of Novelty Laces.

"Take the cheap silver laces—and there are many—and note how immensely effective they are upon even the most commonplace gown. A woman wears a rope of pearls around her throat, looping it over her bodice and winding

Boys' Russian Suits
Among the Novelties
in the Shops.

Best Overcoat for Small
Boy Is Double-Breast-
ed Variety.

Fifth Avenue Dressmaker
Talks About Value
of Laces.

It around again and again, owns a gown which is trimmed with a band of silver lace around the neck and around the yoke. This sets off the pearls exquisitely and makes them look softer and more like the real.

"Not that her pearls are imitation—not by any means. Perish such a suggestion. But it is a day of fishskin pearls and women who wear the strings of pearls are always suspected of wearing the imitations. It is all because of the imitation and the fact that the Duchess of Manchester wears a collar and a string of fishskins and that so many society women are following her example. They must be a soft, creamy white, opaque yet shining, and it can be said that they look twice as lovely against a background of silver lace."

"Another very fine lace is the jetted lace. This need not be very high, but it must be positively incrustated with jet, so stiff that it fairly stands alone. It is now used as a border to the flounce or as a band around the skirt just above the knees, or as a border to the low neck or as an outline to the yoke. Anywhere it is employed this jetted lace is very effective and you cannot do better than own a few yards of it."

Easily Made Laces.

"The cobweb laces are good. And they are easily made. One secures a few yards of net lace and with long silk threads the cobwebs are worked into it. Piece lace, all of plain net, is very good for this purpose. It can be cut any width at all."

"A London hostess wore this season a cobweb lace, made of plain net, with big silver cobwebs worked into it. In one of the webs there was the spider and the fly, both done in gold thread. This is very high art needlework, but the girl of the season can easily accomplish it."

"Short lengths of black lace and of white lace can be picked up and jetted or incrustated with the tiny seed pearls and the result will be a trimming that is fine enough for anyone in the world, and what is more a trimming that can be used upon any kind of a gown."

Mittens for Housework.

To protect the hands while sweeping I have never found anything else half so satisfactory as a pair of loose mittens made of extra heavy cotton flannel, fleeced side in. The strong points about these mittens are, first, the material from which they are made, unless worn almost threadbare, is impervious to dirt, thus keeping the hands clean and free from grit; the fleeced lining serves as a sort of cushion and affords double protection to the palms; being large and loose, they are easy to put on and prevent the hands from becoming red and swollen as they do when encased in tightly fitting gloves while sweeping; extending well over the wrist, they keep the dress cuffs clean, simple in shape they can be made by even the most inexperienced needlewoman; they are cheap, one yard of material being sufficient for two pairs of gloves; they are durable, and wash both easily and well, considerations not to be undervalued. I have always used the white cotton flannel for the purpose, though if preferred the colored might be employed. Gray or brown would be very